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FRITZ AND SELF-RELIANCE

IN the dispatches that reach us from the front there is one phase of the battle raging that stands out distinctively. It is the frightful sacrifice of human life on the German side. If we are to believe what we read the Prussian military heads are indifferent to it. They are obsessed with the idea of gaining a portion of their objective despite the cost. No matter what the price massed formations are sent against the guns of the allies in what, up to the present time, has been a futile effort. The blind obedience to those commands is not amazing when it is remembered that the men in the ranks have been trained from childhood to believe that their Kaiser is a divine mouthpiece and that his commands are but the commands of the Creator. To know the officers of the Prussian military machine throws much light on that particular characteristic of the men in the ranks. The men are held in supreme contempt by their leaders. They are considered food for the mouths of the cannon. They are the product of a system that is hellish in all of its phases. They have been taught to do but one thing well and that is to fight according to the rules that have been laid down by their masters. They lack, however, the one great quality that has been the salvation of the allies.

It has been called initiative, pep, and many other names, but it might be more illuminating to speak of it as self-reliance. That is a dominant quality, ever present, among the greater portion of the English, French and the American soldiers. Numerous incidents have been told of meeting Fritz at close quarters and of his groveling attitude when confronted with the bayonet, the cold steel of his adversary. To face death under such conditions, conditions that he has not been trained to meet by his officers, is something apart from his nature. In close quarters he proves himself to be cowardly and if we are to believe the many stories told of those engagements, treacherous as well. He is a great fighter as long as he is a part of the machine. But when the machine that he is a part of becomes demoralized, when he is face to face with the same sort of punishment that he has administered when surrounded by his comrades, he becomes a groveling thing, disgusting in the extreme, and unable to awaken a particle of charity. It is the lack of this self-reliance, the very training of it out of the nature of the German soldiers, this is one of the things that in the opinion of military experts will lead to the defeat of the Germans.

THE PITTMAN SILVER BILL

EVERY effort should be made by the silver producers to have the Pittman bill become a law. No stone should be left unturned. Every possible device for bringing the bill to the attention of congress should be tried. Let them know at Washington that the silver producing states are solidly behind this measure. Thousands of telegrams should be sent them. Thousands of letters should be sent them. For it is of vital interest to every man, woman and child, in the silver producing states to bring all of the pressure to bear possible to have this bill become a law. One dollar an ounce is not too much to ask for silver at this time. Considering the higher prices that have to be paid for all kinds of mining supplies, the higher wages, and the risk of the capital invested, \$1 per ounce is not asking too much. If it did nothing but free silver from the manipulations of a set of brokers in London where the price of silver is fixed, it will be a great step in advance. It is right and proper that the price of the white metal should be fixed in this country where the bulk of it is produced and where the bulk of it is consumed. The bill has the approval of the treasury department. This was only won after all of the facts relative to the production of the metal had been made plain to all. It was a great point to be gained. For with the approval of the treasury department the bill carries with it a dignity that could be given it by no other method. It signifies that officials of the treasury department have made a rigid investigation relative to the price that should be paid for the metal. It may be taken for granted that the bill will meet with the approval of the western congressmen but no stone should be left unturned to make all others see the necessity of passing the bill at this time. It is worth putting every ounce of endeavor behind in order that it may become a law. For the bill is in no sense something that has been designed in haste to meet an emergency but is the result of painstaking effort. It should receive the support of every man, woman and child that has the future prosperity of the western states at heart.

SEAGULLS AND SUBMARINES

IT is a far cry from a death-dealing submarine to a seagull and yet these two seem to have become inseparable. For the seagull has become a menace to the submarine. Strange indeed are the workings of what the Greeks termed Nemesis. It was only their name for an ever present law, part and parcel of the universe, and not to be avoided by man, be he ever so cunning. Dr. Edward H. Forbush, the state ornithologist of Massachusetts, has recently issued a book for children. In it he states that the seagull, blessed with a vision keener than that of the human eye, easily detects the submarine gliding along deep in the water in search of its prey. Having learned that by following the submarine they will get food, flocks of the gulls keep it in sight. Those in the submarine if they become aware of the fact that the seagulls are following them are forced to dive to such depths that they are unable to do any great damage. For they know that aviators, if they sight the gulls, will surely signal for the destroyers. Nemesis seems to be on the job. We can't get away from it. When we learn so to conduct ourselves that Nemesis is out of a job it will be a great world, indeed.

A FINE SPRING OPENING

IN all important grain districts spring has opened under unusually favorable conditions. In the northwestern states spring work is fully a fortnight ahead of last year, and the soil is in fine condition

for seeding. Good rains will be needed before the end of April, but the moisture in the ground is sufficient for germination. On these states and Canada depends the greater part of the spring wheat. Winter wheat has come through in good shape, but it cannot be a bumper crop and our hopes must be based on spring wheat. Owing to the large acreage plowed during the fine weather before winter set in, the outlook for spring wheat is unusually good on both sides of the line. Farmers are using tractors and are thus overcoming the shortage of labor. They were forehanded in plowing as much land as possible last fall, and they never had a better spring for early seeding and other work. It is of the utmost importance that the best seed should be sown, and, if there is any difficulty in getting it, the government should help the farmer at once. Plenty of very fine spring wheat for seed can be found in Canada, and its importation for seed could easily be arranged. For the winning of the war, both countries are interested in securing big crops for spring wheat on both sides of the line. Our farmers may not require financial assistance, but they may be short of good seed, and the spring wheat crop depends largely on what is done within four weeks. The debate on socialism can wait, but spring wheat must be sown at once, says the New York Commercial.

Barley and oats will probably be sown on an increased acreage, but in the northern section a decrease in the corn acreage is expected owing to lack of good seed. Winter rye looks well. Labor is scarce but western farmers seem to have enough for spring work. Some report that good labor can be procured easily when tractors and other modern agricultural machinery are used, because intelligent men take an interest in such appliances. A city bred mechanic does not understand horses and may not sympathize with a temperamental mule, but he will take to a tractor and probably know more about it than the farmer who hires him. If the government labor bureau can provide harvest hands and the season is propitious, our food problems should be less troublesome six months hence.

ARRANGE PITFALLS FOR THE SPIES

(By Associated Press.)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, April 9.—Spies who may endeavor to get into the ranks of the American expeditionary forces are likely to find such a maneuver extremely difficult and dangerous, so complete are arrangements to prevent such things happening. Of course it is not advisable to disclose just what the arrangements are but every ruse tried by enemy agents during this war in various armies, and some that have not been tried, have been provided for.

It came to light recently that orders had been issued in certain quarters to the general effect that officers receiving drafts into combat divisions from replacement divisions

were to make sure that each member of the draft actually was the man he was supposed to be and that no other man was included in the group. Just what caused this order is not disclosed, but it contains an inference that is obvious.

The order was issued just a few days before one of our telephone wires had been found tapped in a trench, the tap wire running out across No Man's Land. There was some talk at that time among the men in the line of hunting for a spy; but there has been no further development. It is not impossible, however, that a German patrol taking advantage of the opportune moment hooked their tap wire on the line in our trench and then retired quickly.

DAY'S WORLD WAR NEWS GENERALIZED

Facing American, French and British troops strongly entrenched and well equipped for battle, the German army has for the moment given up its direct drive against Amiens. After utter repulse in his efforts to smash straight through to his objective, the enemy now is attempting a new maneuver which is intended to broaden the field of action and reduce the menace of a counter offensive that would nullify all the gains made by the Entente since March 21.

Reports from the battle line in Picardy disclose the first stages of this new German offensive aimed at either side of the salient in the allied lines. From La Bassée canal in the north, to the sectors east of Laon, the great artillery forces of the enemy are thundering, with the bombardment deepening at places to the intensity of drum fire. The length of this front is approximately 120 miles. North of Lens, east of Arras, along the new front running through Buquoy to Albert, south of Mont Didier and thence eastward past Lassigny and Noyon to a point far beyond Chauny, the Germans are hammering the allied lines in an attempt to break the defenses and prepare them for the infantry assault which may be expected at any moment.

On the western "elbow" of the salient in the allied lines, the Germans are forced to fight uphill. Their advance across the lower ground along the Somme, Ancre, Aisne and Luce rivers has carried them up to a parapet of hills which sentinels the road to Amiens. Attacks along this natural bulwark have netted the enemy only insignificant gains at a horrible cost.

At points the German efforts have gained, but these gains have resulted only in the formation of sharp salients which are swept by rifle and machine gun fire and tempests of shells whenever enemy troops are seen forming for an attack.

EGGS \$5 EACH

(By Associated Press.)

PARIS, April 9.—Eggs are \$5 each in the occupied portion of northeastern France, according to Eugene Motte, former mayor of Roubaix, who has just returned from that area. Meat is \$4 a pound when it is obtainable at all. "The Germans have carried off all supplies and every movable piece of machinery," he says. "The German arrogance, which had decreased, has again become more pronounced since the German successes against the Russian Bolsheviks. In spite of everything, however, the morale of the Belgian and French inhabitants continue good, and their ardent patriotism, courage and confidence have never faltered."

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The U. S. Food Administration Writes

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LANDS IN JAIL

(By Associated Press.)
 LIVERPOOL, April 9.—Richard F. Albrecht, an American, is serving a six months' sentence for concealing the fact that he was born in Germany, in statements made to the authorities here.
 Albrecht was second officer of an American ship paid off at Barry and came to Liverpool to await a return steamer. He asserted at first that he was born in Holland, but later admitted that he was of German birth.

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